available information is given as under:—

Name of Public Sector Undertaking	Number of employees	Number of Scheduled Tribe employees
National Aluminium Co.	3453	722
Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	438	3
Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	85	Nil
Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.	57	Nil.

Import of natural rubber and tyres

1200. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of tyres imported after the announcement of the import policy; and

(b) whether Government have taken this into account while fixing the quantity of import of natural rubber and the corresponding reduction in the quantity of import of national rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No import of tyres have so far taken place under the scheme announced in March, 1988, for the import of specified categories of bus and truck tyres.

(b) Quality of natural rubber to be imported is decided on the basis of the estimated gap in demand and domestic supply.

Flaring of Gas in Tripura and other N.E. States

1201. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the natural gas discovered in the State at Tripura and other North Eastern States remains unutilised and the same is being flared up;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not using this rare resource;

(c) whether any schemes have been drawn up to make best utilisation of this gas; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No gas is being flared in Tripura. In Assam the flaring of gas has come down, over the last three years from 51 per cent to 34 per cent.

(b) to (d) There is scope for greater use of gas in Tripura and other North Eastern States. Supply of gas has been committed for the purpose of setting up new power stations in this area.

Norms for supply of LPG to hilly and forest areas

1202. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 63 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether in view of the peculiar conditions in hilly areas and forest regions any special norms have so far been devised to facilitate allotment of LPG distributing agencies/dealerships and LPG connections;

(b) if so, what are their details and whether cooking gas would be easily available even in remote and difficult areas whereby forest could be saved;

(c) whether equalisation of consumer rates in such areas and plains has also been enforced; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the areas so covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The extension of LPG distribution in various towns and cities is a continuous process all over the country. LPG distribution is being maximised in hilly and forest regions subject to economic viability. In the Kumaon and Garhwal regions of Uttar Pradesh, State Government undertakings like Kumeon and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigams are marketing LPG, including in small towns and extension points. Similarly, in Himachal Pradesh, the State Civil Supplies Corporation has been authorised to market LPG in various hilly areas.

LPG connections are also being released in such areas expeditiously to clear the waiting lists.

(c) Under a scheme introduced with effect from 16-6-1988, no freight is being charged on LPG for domestic use for supplies in the identified hilly areas on the transportation from the refinery to the bottling plant and from the bottling plant to the LPG distributors; also, wherever supplies are made at the extension points, from the distributor point to such extension points where LPG marketing and distribution is done by the State Government agencies/State Government companies in the hill areas.

(d) The details of hill areas so identified for the purpose of qualifying for the above concession are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No.]

Interim Reports of the High Power Committee

1203. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Power Committee for consideration of the interests of the employees of the industrial units having Central pattern of dearness allowance has submitted three interim reports and is about to submit the fourth one; and

(b) if so, what recommendations have so far been accepted and implemented; not accepted or are still under consideration, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations made by the High Power Pay Committee in their three interim reports have been accepted by the Government and suitable instructions issued to public enterprises.

बाबरपुर मेन रोड दिल्ली में वाणिज्यिक (बिजली) कनैक्शनों का दिया जाना

1204. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि डेसू कार्यालय शाहदरा, दिल्ली–32 के इंसपैक्टरों के पास कुछ आवेदन पत्र काफी लम्बे समय से पड़े हुए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) उन आवेदकों के नाम और पते क्या है जिन्होंने जनवरी, 1988 से आवेदन पत्र दे रखे हैं और उनके आवेदन पत्रों की तारीखें क्या हैं ; और